

## Community and Tribal Programs

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### Tobacco Facts

Tobacco-related diseases  
kill more than 8,300  
Washington residents  
every year.

Tobacco-related medical  
costs in Washington exceed  
\$1.5 billion annually.

The tobacco industry  
spends more than  
\$200 million annually in  
Washington promoting its  
products and generating  
new smokers

Research shows that meaningful and sustained reductions in tobacco use can occur only when a comprehensive set of tobacco prevention activities are integrated in communities. Washington's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides more than \$6 million annually to county health departments, community-based organizations, and tribes to support tobacco prevention activities in all 39 counties and 26 Washington tribes.

### How the community component works

Local tobacco prevention programs are effective because they carry out activities designed to meet the unique needs of their communities. Community-based activities include:

- Forming partnerships between schools, government agencies, and other community-based groups to help smokers quit and prevent others from starting.
- Raising public awareness of tobacco issues and resources to help smokers quit, such as through promotion of the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line.
- Training doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to help their patients quit.
- Educating families and businesses about the dangers of secondhand smoke.
- Developing and providing resources for help high-risk communities.

The communities and tribes are joined locally by programs in schools and emerging activities driven by high-risk populations.

### State provides technical assistance to communities

In addition to direct funding, the state Tobacco Prevention and Control Program provides local programs with free tobacco prevention and control materials through a clearinghouse, training, expert speakers for community events, information on the latest research, and survey and evaluation information.

### A comprehensive approach to fighting tobacco use

Research shows that state and local tobacco programs must be broad-based and comprehensive to be effective. State and local programs also conduct public awareness and media campaigns, provide services to help people quit, encourage smoke-free environments, and restrict the ability of kids to get tobacco.

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